

REMARKS

Applicant's attorney acknowledges with gratitude the interview held with Examiner Shafer on June 6, 2006.

Pursuant to the agreement reached in the interview, the claims have been amended to cancel claims 1-3, and to add a limitation to claim 4 that one of the first and second cases includes a wall disposed between the mirror surface angle adjustment mechanism and the control device "that includes an opening for accommodating an electrical connector having detachably connectable electrical terminals such that said electrical terminals are interconnected when said first and second cases are positioned adjacent to one another." This amendment is clearly supported in Figure 3 of the present application, and it is neither disclosed nor suggested by any tenable combination that the Hamomoto '322 and Mori '144 patents. As pointed out during the interview, such a feature facilitates the assembly of the outer mirror device of the invention by (1) modularizing the mirror surface angle adjusting mechanism in a first case, and the control device in a second case, and (2) allowing all necessary electrical connections between these components to be implemented simply by placing one case adjacent to the other. No such feature is remotely suggested by the prior art of record.

Claims 10-15 have been canceled, since they depend upon canceled claim 1.

Claim 17 has been amended to recite that the electrical terminals of the electrical connector are interconnected when the snap-fit connections between the first and second cases are connected. No such combination of snap-fit connections and electrical connectors are disclosed or remotely suggested in the prior art, claim 17 is further patentable.

Claims 19 and 20 have been canceled, since they ultimately depend on canceled claim 1.

Finally, new claims 21 and 22 have been added which depend upon amended claim 4. These claims are patentable not only by reason of such dependency, but for their recitation of further details of the modular advantages of the invention neither disclosed or suggested in the prior art of record.

Now that all the claims are believed to be allowable, the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due is hereby earnestly solicited.